

## ATTENTION

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☐ FOIA/PA☐ Litigation☐ Executive Order Applied

Requester \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject \_\_\_\_\_  
 Computer or Case Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title of Case \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_  
 \* File \_\_\_\_\_  
 Serials Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Release Location \*File \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_

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File Number 245D-NO-7 (No) Section 15  
 Serial(s) Reviewed ALL

FOIPA Requester \_\_\_\_\_  
 FOIPA Subject \_\_\_\_\_  
 FOIPA Computer Number #984989

File Number \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_  
 Serial(s) Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_

FOIPA Requester \_\_\_\_\_  
 FOIPA Subject \_\_\_\_\_  
 FOIPA Computer Number \_\_\_\_\_

File Number \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_  
 Serial(s) Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_

FOIPA Requester \_\_\_\_\_  
 FOIPA Subject \_\_\_\_\_  
 FOIPA Computer Number \_\_\_\_\_

THIS FORM IS TO BE MAINTAINED AS THE TOP SERIAL OF THE FILE, BUT NOT SERIALIZED.

ATTENTION

DO NOT REMOVE FROM FILE

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# Trial

CONTINUED FROM 1A

## cases

In her closing statement Wednesday, Burns urged jurors to consider the message drug traffickers of Colombia's Medellin cocaine cartel were sending with Seal's murder

"This was used to teach a lesson, gangland style," she said brandishing a machine gun used in the murder "Back in the 1920's, people would machine-gun informants to death in the streets. They knew it would be a deterrent to people who might turn against this cartel in the future

"With a machine gun, they were the jury, the judge and the executioner and they did it for a few thousand dollars," Burns said about the defendants "Cold, hard cash."

State prosecutors had asked the jury to consider the contract on Seal's life as one of the aggravating factors warranting the death penalty for Vasquez, Velez and Quintero-Cruz

Defense attorneys argued Wednesday that life in prison was a more lasting deterrent

"Each day, his life is a deterrent, he becomes painfully aware of why he is being punished," Walker said about inmates serving life sentences

"When there is an execution at the prison, it's a deterrent, but it doesn't last very long," Walker said "How many of you remember the name of the last person to die in the electric chair?"

Walker reminded the jury that Vasquez had no criminal history and said his character "is beyond reproach as compared to the character of the victim in this case"

Attorney Robert Moore, who represents Quintero-Cruz, reminded the jurors that they were allowed unlimited mercy under the law and were not bound to return the death penalty under any circumstances

He invited the jury to take a photograph of Quintero-Cruz's wife and three children living in Colombia into their deliberations.

"It's the only thing he has in this world now that makes life worth living," Moore said about the alleged trigger man

"It's important for that baby boy to grow up knowing he has a father," Moore said, pointing to the photo "It's important for that little girl to know her father is alive, somewhere"

Seal, Moore said, was no "innocent victim" as a child or elderly person who becomes the victim of first-degree murder

Attorney Richard Sharpstein, who represents Velez, urged the jury to "forgive him his trespasses" as the alleged driver of a getaway car in Seal's murder

"Lock him up, throw away the key, but don't kill him," Sharpstein said. "This is not a case that cries out for the violent vengeance of death in the electric chair"

Thursday's final session was delayed by private conferences between attorneys and Quienalty over a defense motion that the judge sealed from public access.

Quienalty also refused requests from reporters covering the trial concerning the minutes of bench conferences on the motion held in open court.

Attorney Anthony Marabella, who represents Quintero-Cruz, said Quienalty barred attorneys from discussing the motion publicly over their objections

"A motion will be filed in the next couple of days that will explain what has been sealed," he said.

On the outer steps of the Lake Charles federal building housing the trial, Sharpstein said all three defendants plan to appeal their first-degree murder convictions

"We still feel we have a very strong case on the guilt phase," he said. "Our clients are relieved that they won't be sitting on death row while we're appealing"

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) A-1, A-13  
"MORNING ADVOCATE"  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 5/15/87  
Edition

Title MIGUEL VELEZ, aka  
ET AL: ADLER B. SEAL-  
VICTIM

Character OCDE TASK FORCE INV.  
or

Classification 245B-7  
Submitting Office New Orleans

Quienalty said Velez, Vasquez and Quintero-Cruz will be sentenced at 1:30 p.m. May 21 in state District Court here

Seal died in a hail of machine-gun fire as he exited his Cadillac in the parking lot of the Salvation Army Community Treatment Center in Baton Rouge on the evening of Feb. 19, 1986

He had been serving a six-month probation sentence at a federal halfway house there on drug charges

A January trial on Seal's murder was ordered transferred from Baton Rouge to Calcasieu Parish by District Judge Frank Saia, who found it impossible to seat an impartial jury in Baton Rouge

The trial here was first assigned to the Sulphur Judicial Center — a converted Catholic Church,

It was reassigned to a courtroom in the federal building here for security reasons

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) A-1, A-5  
 "MORNING ADVOCATE"  
 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 1/12/87  
 Edition Morning

MIGUEL VELEZ, aka  
 Title ET AL; ADLER B. SEAL-  
 VICTIM

Character OCDE TASK FORCE  
 or  
 Classification 245B-7  
 Submitting Office New Orleans

# Jury selection begins in trial of 3 accused in Seal slaying

By JOHN SEMIEN  
 Advocate staff writer

On Monday, Colombians Miguel Velez, Bernardo Antonio Vasquez and Carlos Quintero-Cruz will begin searching for a jury of their peers in the hometown of the federal witness they are accused of murdering.

They'll have the counsel of seven defense attorneys in sifting through a jury pool estimated at 800. Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns will represent the state.

District Judge Frank Saia will preside over the case, which has become complicated and far-reaching in 10 months of state and federal investigations and pretrial hearings.

In comparison, the machine-gun slaying of Adler "Barry" Seal was brutally simple.

Seal was shot to death in a parked Cadillac he had been driving to and from a halfway house operated by the Salvation Army Community Treatment Center on Airline Highway.

Witnesses at pretrial hearings have said there were two men waiting in the center's parking lot when Seal reported to a federal halfway house at the center to spend the night on the evening of Feb. 19, 1986.

They have described one man approaching the driver's side of Seal's car, opening fire with a Mac 10 machine gun and then hopping into a getaway car driven by a second man.

In seconds, Seal was hit by a barrage of .45-caliber bullets at close range and died at the scene, according to police.

SEE TRIAL, 4A

## Trial

CONTINUED FROM 1A

reports

In the next 48 hours, FBI agents arrested six suspects in Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida and confiscated evidence that included four getaway cars.

State prosecutors have called the murder a contract killing ordered by angry Colombian cocaine traffickers who had already placed a \$500,000 contract on Seal's life.

Seal's checkered career as a drug smuggler and DEA informant figure prominently in the alleged murder plot, which prosecutors say involve the top cocaine traffickers in the world.

Velez, Quintero-Cruz, Vasquez and Colombian Jose Renteria-Campo were eventually indicted with conspiracy and first-degree murder charges in an investigation launched by District Attorney Bryan Bush.

But local attorney Michele Fournet and Mike Small of Alexandria won a separate trial for Renteria-Campo, who allegedly helped set up Seal's murder.

They will be interested spectators in Monday's proceedings.

The two attorneys have argued strenuously in pretrial hearings against elaborate security precautions that have included armed guards, searching of courtroom visitors and a transparent bullet-proof shield.

Saia last week said security at the trial would be "less intense" as officials dismantled the shield and implemented more subtle security measures.

Fournet, who served two stints with the Public Defender's Office, said last week that the heavy security is unprecedented in district court here.

"The kind of security that has existed in this case is unprecedented in Baton Rouge, as far as I know," she said. "There was never any evidence introduced to justify the security. In fact, the four individuals on trial have strenuous objections to it."

Fournet and other attorneys interviewed by the Morning Advocate would not comment on details of the case because of a gag order imposed late last year by Saia.

But some estimated the trial could take from three weeks to a month, if all 120 prospective witnesses in the case are called.

"I think three and a half to four weeks, assuming we're able to pick a jury," local attorney Jack Dampf said last week.

Dampf is co-counsel for Velez, the alleged driver of the getaway car.

Dampf's partner in Velez's defense is Richard Sharpstein of Coconut Grove, Fla.

Sharpstein, a former state attorney in Miami, said last week he is optimistic about selecting an impartial jury, despite pretrial publicity that prompted several attorneys to ask for a change of venue.

"I do know there's been massive publicity but I'd certainly like to think we could seat 12 fair people from a community like Baton Rouge," he said. "I was concerned at first, but since the judge has ruled, I'm willing to try."

#8 RORAR

LFBI/DOJ

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Other Florida-based attorneys in the case include Robert Moore and Samuel Rabin, Miami lawyers defending Quintero-Cruz.

Moore, who last week said he specializes in criminal law, described the Seal case as "a very complicated case."

"What it boils down to, as far as my client is concerned, is who did it," Moore said.

### Trial profile



**District Judge  
Frank Saia**  
Will preside over the case



**Prem Burns**  
Assistant District Attorney,  
prosecutor

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) A-1, A-5  
"MORNING ADVOCATE"  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 1/27/87

Edition Morning

MIGUEL VELEZ, aka  
Title ET AL; ADLER B. SEAL -  
VICTIM

Character OCDE TASK FORCE  
or

Classification 245B-7

Submitting Office New Orleans

State prosecutors have called Quintero-Cruz the "shooter" with the machine gun in Seal's murder.

Moore said he also was concerned about possible bias against the nationality of the suspects.

"Another big problem we have is that they are Colombian," Moore said. "We just hope this jury will be able to give these people a fair trial."

Moore and Rabin are being aided by Baton Rouge attorney Anthony Marabella, whose career in criminal law includes three years as an assistant district attorney and two years with the Public Defender's Office.

Marabella said last week the ramifications of the Seal case make it unique among murder cases he has tried.

"Because of the ramifications, who Barry Seal was and was alleged to be, certainly makes this case unique," Marabella said. "I've been practicing law for 13 years and I've never seen a case with so many different types of collateral issues that could affect jury selection."

Vasquez, who is also accused of helping other suspects set up the hit on Seal, is being represented by Jefferson Parish attorneys Sam Dalton and Wayne Williams.

After being rejected once, the attorneys last week filed a motion asking Saia to try Vasquez separately from the other suspects, a matter expected to be decided by Saia at trial.

Saia said on Friday he expected the trial to last about three weeks, allowing a week each for jury selection and the presentation of cases by the state and defense attorneys.

Saia said he did not expect a lengthy trial and described Monday's opening proceedings as "no different from any first-degree murder trial where three people are on trial."

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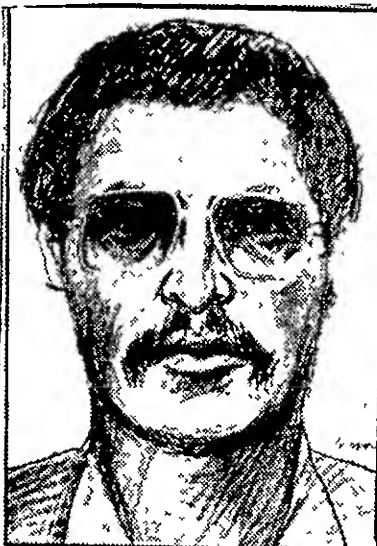
(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) A-1, A-5  
"MORNING ADVOCATE"  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 1/12/87  
Edition Morning

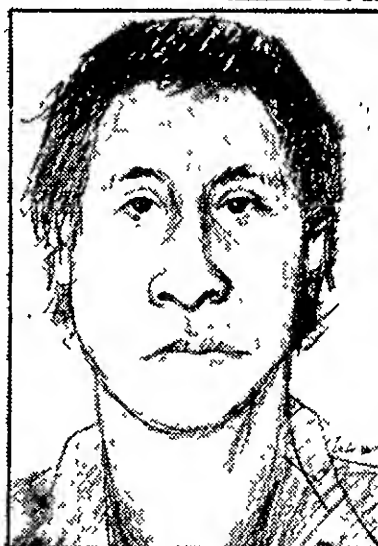
Title MIGUEL VELEZ, aka  
ET AL; ADLER B. SEAL-  
VICTIM

Character OCDE TASK FORCE  
or

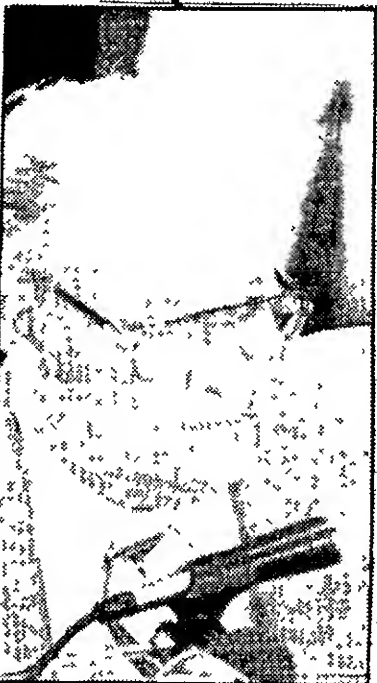
Classification 245B-7  
Submitting Office New Orleans



**Bernardo Antonio Vasquez**  
Defendant



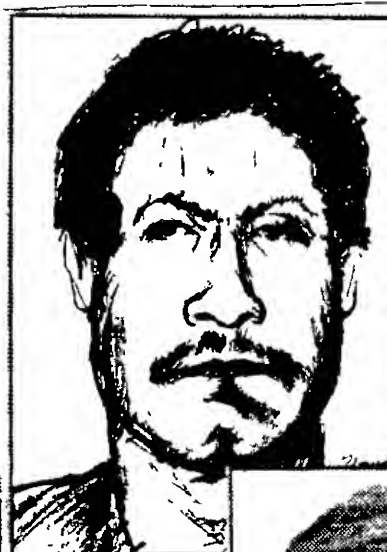
**Carlos Quintero-Cruz**  
Defendant



**Sam Dalton**  
Jefferson Parish attorney,  
representing Vasquez



**Anthony Marabella**  
Baton Rouge attorney,  
co-counsel for Quintero-Cruz



**Miguel Velez**  
Defendant



**Jack Dampf**  
Baton Rouge attorney,  
co-counsel for Velez

**Wayne Williams**  
Jefferson Parish attorney,  
defending Vasquez

**Robert Moore, Sam Rabin**  
Miami lawyers defending  
Quintero-Cruz

**Richard Sharpstein**  
Florida attorney, co-counsel  
for Velez

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

<b>United States District Court</b>		DISTRICT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA v MIGUEL VELEZ		DOCKET NO.  MAGISTRATE'S CASE NO.	
Complaint for violation of Title 18 United States Code § 371, 1513 and 2			
NAME OF JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE  Honorable John V. Parker		OFFICIAL TITLE  U.S. Judge	LOCATION  707 Florida Blvd. Baton Rouge, La.
DATE OF OFFENSE  19 Feb 1986	PLACE OF OFFENSE  Baton Rouge, LA	ADDRESS OF ACCUSED (if known)  Meridian, Mississippi	
COMPLAINANT'S STATEMENT OF FACTS CONSTITUTING THE OFFENSE OR VIOLATION  SEE ATTACHED STATEMENT OF FACTS			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>CLERK'S OFFICE</b>  A TRUE COPY  FEB 20 1986  Deputy Clerk, U. S. District Court  Middle District of Louisiana  Baton Rouge, La. </div>			
BASIS OF COMPLAINANTS CHARGE AGAINST THE ACCUSED On or about February 19, 1986, Miguel Velez, and other persons known and unknown conspired together to commit an offense against the United States, namely retaliating against a witness, by engaging in conduct and thereby causing bodily injury and death to Adler B. Seal, in retaliation for any information given and to be given relating to the commission of Federal offenses charged in <u>United States of America v. Pablo Escobar Gaviria, et al</u> in the Southern District of Florida.			
b7C			
245 B-7-11385			
MAJ SA [redacted] DEPT SA [redacted] FBI, SA [redacted] FBI Deputy [redacted] EBRSO		[redacted]	
Being duly sworn, I declare that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge			
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, SIGNATURE OF MAGISTRATE(1) <i>John V. Parker</i>		OFFICIAL TITLE <i>Special Agent, FBI</i>	
DATE <i>February 20, 1986</i>		<i>U.S. District Judge</i>	

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On February 19, 1986 at approximately 6:00 p.m., Adler B. Seal was shot to death at Baton Rouge, Louisiana by two unknown assailants. One assailant was described by two witnesses at the murder scene as follows:

A white male, Latin in appearance, approximately 6'0" to 6'1" in height, wearing a light brown long sleeved shirt and light blue "baggy" trousers, with dark short slightly wavy hair, and weighing 180-195 pounds. This person was described by one witness as having slight mustache.

Adler B. Seal was known to be a potential witness in a criminal action in the Southern District of Florida, Miami, Florida, United States of America v. Pablo Escobar Gaviria, et al. At approximately 6:00 p.m. on February 19, 1986, East Baton Rouge Parish Deputy Sheriff [redacted] observed two unknown individuals exit a late model Buick automobile, approximately one-quarter mile from the murder scene, and enter a late model red General Motors 4-door automobile, and speed from the scene. b7C  
Examination of the abandoned vehicle disclosed two automatic weapons. The car which sped away had no license plates but appeared to have a new car price sticker attached to a rear window.

At approximately 8:45 p.m. on February 19, 1986, FBI Special Agents [redacted] observed one Miguel Velez approach the Eastern Airline ticket counter at New Orleans International Airport and inquire about flights to Miami.

Velez was told no flights were available and inquired about flights to Orlando, Florida. Velez was questioned by the above-named FBI agents and displayed an Easter Airline round trip ticket which showed his arrival in New Orleans on February 16, 1986, with return to Miami on February 28, 1986. Velez appeared extremely nervous, hesitant in his speech and was perspiring. Velez stated he was in New Orleans on vacation but disclaimed knowledge of persons in New Orleans. He stated he needed to return to Miami due to family problems. Velez claimed to reside in Miami, did not have a home telephone, but had a "beeper" device rented from a Miami company. Velez was described as approximately 6'0" in height, Latin in appearance, dark curly short hair, a slight mustache, born 6/7/49 at Puerto Rico. He had a U.S. Passport with date indicating prior travel to Columbia, S.A. Velez was wearing a white shirt, white shoes, with aqua colored "baggy" trousers.

The above special agents then determined that Velez went to his room in the Hilton Hotel, Airline Highway, New Orleans, and departed without checking out for Montgomery, Alabama, via taxi, at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Early in the morning on February 20, 1986 at Meridian, Mississippi, Lt.  Meridian Police Department was b7C investigating an accident involving a Louisiana taxi that had struck an animal. The passenger in the vehicle was one Miguel Velez. Velez had in his possession an Avis Car Rental key ring with automobile keys listing the automobile as a four-door Cadillac Deville, Avis number 8055.



On February 20, 1986 a representative of Avis Car Rental,  
New Orleans, advised that their rental car 8055 is a 1986,  
four-door red Cadillac Deville, temporary Louisiana License

b7C

T0362076, rented on February 18, 1986 to [REDACTED]

Florida. Investigation at New Orleans determined that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was registered in the Hilton Hotel in Room 270, while

Velez was registered in Room 269.

# United States District Court

MIDDLE

DISTRICT OF

LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V

MIGUEL VELEZ

## WARRANT FOR ARREST

CASE NUMBER

To: The United States Marshal  
and any Authorized United States Officer

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to arrest MIGUEL VELEZ

Name

and bring him or her forthwith to the nearest magistrate to answer a(n)

☐ Indictment ☐ Information ☒ Complaint ☐ Order of court ☐ Violation Notice ☐ Probation Violation Petition

charging him or her with (brief description of offense)

18:USC 371, 1513 &amp; 2

Retaliation of a witness for information given relating to the commission  
of Federal offenses in the Southern District of Florida

in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section(s) 371, 1513 & 2John V. Parker

Name of Issuing Officer

John V. Parker

Signature of Issuing Officer

U.S. District Judge

Title of Issuing Officer

February 20, 1986 Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Date and Location

By Deputy Clerk

Bail fixed at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Judicial Officer

### RETURN

This warrant was received and executed with the arrest of the above-named defendant at \_\_\_\_\_

DATE RECEIVED

NAME AND TITLE OF ARRESTING OFFICER

SIGNATURE OF ARRESTING OFFICER

DATE OF ARREST



BRYAN BUSH  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**Nineteenth Judicial District**  
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

222 ST. LOUIS STREET  
TELEPHONE (504) 389-3400

February 23, 1987

Mr. Ed Grimsley  
Special Agent In Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
One American Place  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Re: State of Louisiana versus Miguel Velez, et al

Dear Ed:

As you are aware, trial of the above referred first degree murder prosecution has been reassigned for April 6, 1987 in Lake Charles, Louisiana. It is our current expectation that selection of the jury in Lake Charles should take some seven working days. Accordingly, trial should commence on or about April 15.

In view of the interest of the Federal government toward a successful conclusion of this trial as well as the need to coordinate the large number of federal agents who will be called to testify, this office is requesting that Special Agent [redacted] b7C [redacted] be permitted to remain in Lake Charles with the state prosecution team for the duration of the trial once a jury is impaneled. Thanking you for the cooperation of the Bureau thus far, I remain,

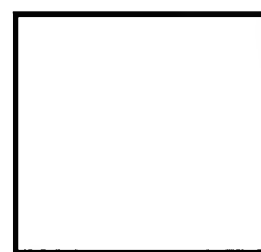
Sincerely,

[redacted]  
Chief Prosecutor  
Criminal Section III

PB/kt



*Approved by BSBK  
2/27/87*



*215B-7-11382*  
*[Signature]*

Date **2/20/86**

Title and Character of Case  
**UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
MIGUEL VELEZ;**

[Redacted]

b7C

**OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE  
OO: NEW ORLEANS**

Date Property Acquired **2/20/86** Source From Which Property Acquired **MIGUEL VELEZ**

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit **Baton Rouge RA** Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same **EVIDENCE**

To Be Returned See Serial Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit Agent Assigned Case  
☐ Yes ☒ No SA [Redacted] SA [Redacted]

☐ Yes ☒ No Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Description of Property or Exhibit

- One Eastern Airlines Ticket #0074472098186
- One Columbian Peso (Bill)
- One Amiron Watch Black Band
- One Gold Necklace with cross pendant
- One cloth cord Madonna necklace

Inventoried By **Retain** **9/25/86**

b7C

Inventoried By

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only  
Evidence Bag Seal # **009993** Signature of Two Special Agents Verifying and Sealing Bag Contents SA [Redacted]

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

Inventoried By **Retain** **4/3/86**

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
MAR 1 1986  
FBI - NEW ORLEANS

**245 D-7-1B-755**  
BLOCK STAMP  
FEB 20 1986  
FBI - NEW ORLEANS

Field File # **72-50 Jackson 76-32-182**

OO **NEW ORLEANS**

**EXHIBIT COPY (optional)**

Date **2/20/86**

Title and Character of Case

**UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
MIGUEL VELEZ;**

b7C

**OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE**

**OO: NEW ORLEANS**

Date Property Acquired  
**2/20/86**

Source From Which Property Acquired  
**MIGUEL VELEZ**

b7C

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit

*Baton Rouge RA*

Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same

**EVIDENCE**

To Be Returned  
☐ Yes ☒ No

See Serial

Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit

**SA**

Agent Assigned Case

**SA**

☐ Yes ☒ No Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

Description of Property or Exhibit

**\$3,275.41 in U. S. Currency**

~~Retain~~  
~~Inventoried~~ *9/25/86*  
~~By~~

~~Inventoried~~  
~~By~~

b7C

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only

Evidence Bag Seal # **009978**

Signature of Two  
Special Agents  
Verifying and Sealing  
Bag Contents

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

~~Retain~~  
~~Inventoried~~ *4/3/86*

~~By~~

Field File # **Jackson 22-50-181**

**OO NEW ORLEANS**

**COPY (optional)**

*245D-7-1B756*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

BLOCK STAMP	
FEB 20 1986	

Date

2/20/86

Title and Character of Case

UNSUB;  
MIGUEL VELEZ.



b7C

OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

OO NEW ORLEANS

Date Property Acquired

2/20/86

Source From Which Property Acquired

MIGUEL VELEZ

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit

Baton Rouge RA

Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same

EVIDENCE

To Be Returned

☐ Yes ☒ No

See Serial

Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit

Agent Assigned Case

SA

☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

Description of Property or Exhibit

One (1) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Atomic Absorption Analysis Kit Used to Process MIGUEL VELEZ.

~~Retain~~  
Inventoried 9/25/81  
By [Signature]

Inventoried \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only

Evidence Bag Seal # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Two  
Special Agents  
Verifying and Sealing  
Bag Contents

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

Inventoried 4/3/86

By [Signature]

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 1 1986	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

BLOCK STAMP	
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 20 1986	
FBI - JACKSON	

Field File # JACKSON 2-3-185

OO NEW ORLEANS

COPY (optional)

Date 2/20/86

Title and Character of Case

UNSUB;  
MIGUEL VELEZ;



b7C

OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

Date Property Acquired 2/20/86 Source From Which Property Acquired MIGUEL VELEZ

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit Baton Rouge RA Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same EVIDENCE

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No See Serial Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit Agent Assigned Case SA [Redacted]  
☐ Yes ☒ No Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

Description of Property or Exhibit

**Two (2) Sets of Major Case Prints of MIGUEL VELEZ**

~~Retain~~  
Inventoried 9/25/86  
By [Signature]

Inventoried \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only	
Evidence Bag Seal # _____	Signature of Two Special Agents Verifying and Sealing Bag Contents _____

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

~~Retain~~  
Inventoried 4/3/86  
By [Signature]  
Field File # 72-50 JAMESON 29-52-1B4

245D-7-1B 758

SEARCHED <u>[Signature]</u>	INDEXED <u>[Signature]</u>
SERIALIZED <u>[Signature]</u>	FILED <u>[Signature]</u>
FEB 20 1986	
FBI - JACKSON	

OO NEW ORLEANS  
[Signature]  
COPY (optional)

Date **2/20/86**

Title and Character of Case

**UNSUB;  
MIGUEL VELEZ,**



b7C

**OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE**

Date Property Acquired **2/20/86** Source From Which Property Acquired **MIGUEL VELEZ**

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit **Baton Rouge RA** Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same **EVIDENCE**

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No See Serial Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit Agent Assigned Case **SA**  
☐ Yes ☒ No Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

Description of Property or Exhibit

**One Set of Car Keys on An Avis Rental Tag**

**One Key on a Tag #269**

**One Florida Driver's License #V420-540-49-247**

**Social Security Card #071-80-2491**

**One Red Address Book**

**One U. S. Passport #25286996**

**Twenty-one Business Cards (Various)**

**One Mechanic's Wrench**

**One Laminated Prayer Card**

**One Gray Jacket**

**One Pair Shoes (White)**

**One Green Two-piece Outfit**

**(One set of Photocopies of  
(Passport, Driver's License,  
(Social Security Card,  
(Business Cards, etc.,  
(including a large quantity  
(of money which was in  
(possession of Meridian Police  
(Department subsequent to the  
(Arrest of MIGUEL VELEZ  
(26 Total pages).**

**One Mastercard Application**

**One Leather Pouch (2"x3")**

**One Shoe String**

**One piece of Gold Colored Metal  
Wife**

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only

Evidence Bag Seal # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Two  
Special Agents  
Verifying and Sealing  
Bag Contents

Inventoried **9/25/86**  
By **[Signature]**

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

Retained **4/3/86**  
Inventoried **[Signature]**  
By **[Signature]**

**245D-7-1B**

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SERIALIZED **13** FILED **13**  
**MAR 1 1986**  
**FBI NEW ORLEANS**

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SERIALIZED **13** FILED **13**  
**FEB 20 1986**  
**FBI JACKSON**

Field File # **72-50 Jackson**

**NEW ORLEANS**

**Index**



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# Jury selection to start in Seal murder trial

By The Associated Press

LAKE CHARLES — Jury selection will begin Monday in a coliseum instead of a courtroom for three Colombians accused of the machine-gun slaying of a drug runner who turned into a federal informant.

Prosecutors said Miguel Velez, Luis Carlos Quintero-Cruz and Bernardo Antonio Vasquez were after a \$500,000 bounty offered by a powerful drug cartel to kill Adler "Barry" Seal, a 300-pound former pilot for TWA.

Seal was machine-gunned Feb. 19, 1986, in the parking lot of a Baton Rouge halfway house where he was serving a six-month term on drug and related charges.

The trial was moved to Lake Charles after a Baton Rouge judge declared a mistrial, saying publicity made it impossible to get a jury.

More than 400 prospective jurors have been summoned, so many that selection is set to begin in Burton Coliseum, an arena on the southern edge of the city used for rodeos and livestock shows.

Once the jury is chosen, District Judge Charle Quenalty will move the trial downtown to U.S. District Court, which offers more security than the state courthouse.

Seal had spurned efforts to place him in a federal protection

program, and he predicted that he would be killed.

He flew cocaine shipments from Colombia from 1981 to 1983, when he was caught by federal Drug Enforcement Agency agents and turned informant.

He was to have been a star witness in a south Florida drug trial involving reputed leaders of Colombia's Medellin cartel, which federal agents say is the world's largest criminal organization.

The cartel supplies about 80 percent of the cocaine used in the United States, agents say.

"Security will be heavy for the trial," Calcasieu Parish Sheriff Wayne McElveen said. At least 30 officers will be assigned to the courthouse area, he said.

The security precautions follow threats on prosecutors' lives in the Florida case.

However, Mark Neuberger, court security specialist for the U.S. Marshal's Office in New Orleans, has said there is no connection between the two cases.

"Our intelligence doesn't indicate any tie-in between the two," he said, adding that the three defendants in Lake Charles are "foot soldiers" for the cartel while the figures in south Florida are high-ranking cartel officials.

A fourth defendant in the Seal murder case, Jose Renteria-Campo, will be tried separately.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE B-7

"TIMES-PICAYUNE/STATES-ITEM"

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Date 4/6/87

Edition MORNING

Title [REDACTED] AKA;  
ADLER BERRIMAN SEAL; DRUG  
INVESTIGATIVE TASK FORCE

Character OCDE TASK FORCE - INTER-  
or NATIONAL TRAFFICKING

Classification NO 245D-7

Submitting Office NEW ORLEANS

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245D-7 -1152

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FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state )  
 PAGE A-1 & A-5  
 "TIMES-PICAYUNE/STATES-ITEM"  
 NEW ORLEANS, LA  
 Date 5/14/87  
 Edition MORNING

Title

ADLER BARRIMAN SEAL

AKA;

Character OCDE TASK FORCE - INTER-  
 or NATIONAL TRAFFICKING  
 Classification NO 245D-7  
 Submitting Office NEW ORLEANS

Indexing

# Three convicted of killing Seal

By MARK SCHLEIFSTEIN  
 Staff writer

LAKE CHARLES — Three Colombians were found guilty Wednesday of first-degree murder in the machine-gun death of federal drug informant Barry Seal, and jurors may decide Thursday whether the three should die in the electric chair.

The three were convicted of carrying out a murder contract on Seal to keep him from testifying against one of the heads of an international cocaine-smuggling

cartel based in Medellin, Colombia.

The drug figure, Jorge Ochoa, was to be extradited from Spain to the United States to face drug charges based on information supplied by Seal. Instead, Ochoa was extradited to Colombia weeks after Seal's death and has since disappeared.

Ochoa's brother, Fabio Ochoa, and Pablo Escobar, another cartel figure whom Seal provided evidence against, had offered to pay \$1 million for Seal's kidnapping and \$500,000 for his murder,

prosecutors contend.

Seal was shot to death as he was getting out of his car in the parking lot of a Salvation Army halfway house in Baton Rouge on Feb. 19, 1986.

Wednesday's verdicts followed 13 days of testimony in a courtroom guarded by deputy sheriffs with machine guns and heavily armed deputy marshals concerned about reprisals from the cartel.

Bernardo Vasquez, Miguel

See SEAL, A-5

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245D-7-1167

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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# Seal

From Page 1

Velez and Luis Carlos Quintero-Cruz stood quietly as a clerk read their verdicts.

Velez turned ashen, staring at the jury.

Cruz, still wearing the headphones that allow an interpreter to repeat the verdict to him in Spanish, listened stone-faced.

Vasquez, sitting down while the jurors reconfirmed the verdict with individual polling cards, shifted his chin from one hand to another as he slumped in his chair, not looking at relatives behind him in the audience.

The jury of 10 women and two men took just over 5½ hours over two days to reach the verdict, and immediately began hearing evidence in the penalty phase of the case.

Under Louisiana's first-degree murder law, the jury also decides whether to sentence the defendants to death or to life in prison without parole.

Testimony in the penalty phase will continue Thursday.

As testimony during the penalty phase began Wednesday, Baton Rouge Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns argued in favor of the death penalty, saying the defendants were paid to commit their crime and endangered others when shooting Seal and while speeding away from the scene. Both are extenuating circumstances, which in combination with a murder could justify the death sentence under state law.

Vasquez's mother asked the jury to spare his life.

Lucia Tamayo de Vasquez testified that her son wanted to study to be a priest, but his family was too poor to send him to college.

She asked the jury not to vote for the death penalty "because they're not going to kill him, they're going to kill the entire family."

"If they can only feel a little bit of what I feel, they will raise their eyes to the Lord and ask him to forgive him," she said through an interpreter.

As she left the courtroom, the elderly, stooped woman stared straight ahead, and not at her son, who sat weeping at the defense table.

Defense attorneys also called witnesses who told the jury that there are mitigating circumstances that should sway them from sentencing the three to the electric chair.

Sam Dalton, attorney for Vasquez, said his client had no prior record and was only involved in the murder as an accessory.

Dalton also called witnesses to show that Seal may have continued to smuggle drugs, even after becoming a federal informant. As a convicted drug smuggler, Dalton argued, Seal's life is not worth levying the death penalty.

State Police Lt. Robert Thomasson testified that he believed Seal was still smuggling drugs for his own gain, while working as an informant for the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

Defense attorneys vowed to appeal the guilty verdict to the Louisiana Supreme Court on grounds that testimony concerning the cartel had nothing to do with Seal's death, and illegally prejudiced the jury against their clients.

"They tried the Medellin cartel," said Velez's attorney Richard Sharpstein, during a break in the trial.

He said Burns' closing argument added to the prejudice by attempting to inflame the jury.

"She talked about things that had nothing to do with Barry Seal," Sharpstein said. "She prejudiced, scared, frightened and intimidated that jury."

Sharpstein gave a dramatic and tearful opening statement at the beginning of the penalty phase, eliciting tears from one juror.

Velez began wiping tears from his eyes with a handkerchief as Sharpstein urged the jury to ignore the biblical precept of an eye for an eye, and be merciful to Velez.

"If it's easy (to sentence Velez to the electric chair), if it's cold and you can do it . . . do it," Sharpstein said, his voice breaking. "But it's final."

During the trial, Burns outlined an intricate plan that was capped with Cruz killing Seal with six bullets from a Mac-10 machine gun.

Velez drove the getaway car, a Buick that Vasquez had bought several days before. The car screamed out of the parking lot and sped off to a youth center a few blocks away, where Velez and Cruz switched to a red Cadillac, also rented by Vasquez a few days before.

It was then that things began to go awry for the killers. Two sheriff's deputies were standing on the steps of the center, where they were working a security detail for a bingo game.

Apparently spooked, Velez and Cruz left the machine gun and an Uzi machine pistol in the Buick, along with three pairs of gloves and a key still in the trunk.

They drove off in the Cadillac, which was found at the New Orleans International Airport the next day.

The defendants' fingerprints were found in four cars used during planning and commission of the crime.

The murder trial was moved to Lake Charles after officials were unable to pick an unbiased jury in Baton Rouge because of press coverage of the murder.

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# Opening arguments focus on Seal

By JOHN SEMIEN  
Advocate staff writer

## Trial

CONTINUED FROM 1A

LAKE CHARLES — A solemn jury sat awestruck Monday as a state prosecutor and three defense attorneys described the flamboyant life of Adler "Barry" Seal in the first-degree murder trial of his alleged assassins.

In opening arguments, Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns and defense attorneys for Miguel Velez, Bernardo Antonio Vasquez and Luis Carlos Quintero-Cruz described Seal as a man of many faces.

While Burns called Seal the government's top witness against bosses of Colombia's Medellin cocaine cartel, defense attorneys said he was an opportunist who gambled on both sides of the law until he dealt his life away.

For the first time Monday, Burns revealed details of the state's theory concerning the cocaine czars who allegedly wanted Seal silenced and their reputed henchmen who scrambled to collect a \$500,000 contract on his life.

Burns said evidence in the trial will show Seal was blasted with 12 .45-caliber rounds from a machine gun in the parking lot of the Salvation Army Community Treatment Center on Airline Highway on Feb. 19, 1986.

However, she said, details about the murder contract, which was accepted by at least two groups of assassins, indicate things could have turned out much worse.

"The evidence will show that, if it was necessary, Barry Seal's whole family was to be killed, if that's what it took to do the job," Burns told the jury in opening arguments Monday.

Burns later pointed first to Quintero-Cruz, then to Velez and finally Vasquez, labeling them as trigger man, driver of the getaway car and procurer of equipment in a murder-for-hire conspiracy.

The conspiracy began when a DEA sting operation involving Seal resulted in the arrest of reputed Medellin cartel

leader Jorge Luis Ochoa-Vasquez in 1984 by officials in Spain, Burns said.

Burns said Seal gave an affidavit attached to the extradition request for Ochoa-Vasquez, who was wanted on Florida drug indictments.

"To support the request to extradite Ochoa back to Miami, Florida, Barry Seal had to swear out an extradition affidavit," Burns said. "In November, 1984, when he signed Jorge Ochoa's extradition request, he became a man marked for death."

Burns said the subsequent contract, which would have paid \$1 million if Seal were delivered alive, was pursued off and on for a year as stints in federal protective custody made access to Seal impossible.

The contract was given first to American drug smuggler and cartel associate Max Mermelstein because the Colombians thought their own people would "stick out like a sore thumb in a small town like Baton Rouge," Burns said.

"He'll tell you that had the bottom line come down to killing Barry Seal or being killed, he would have done the job," Burns said about Mermelstein, who is now a protected federal witness expected to testify in the case.

Burns described Mermelstein as a high-level trafficker who had smuggled more than 130,000 pounds of cocaine into the United States as a cartel distributor before his arrest in 1985 persuaded him to become a federal witness.

Mermelstein received about \$100,000 from the cartel and made several trips to Louisiana in early 1985, before telling cartel leaders he could not make the hit on Seal, she said.

When Spain decided to extradite Ochoa-Vasquez to the United States in early 1986, Burns alleged, Velez was given the contract.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) A-1, A-7  
"MORNING ADVOCATE"  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 4/28/87  
Edition Morning

Title MIGUEL VELEZ, aka:  
ET AL; ADLER B. SEAL-  
VICTIM

Character OCDE TASK FORCE INV.  
or

Classification 245B-7  
Submitting Office New Orleans

An enforcer for reputed Miami cartel underboss Rafael Cardona-Salazar, Velez had to travel to Medellin, Colombia, and receive the blessings of cartel leaders Pablo Escobar-Gaviria and Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez, brother of Jorge Ochoa-Vasquez, she said.

Burns said the cartel bosses also ordered Colombian Luis Carlos Uribe-Munera to recruit two Colombian assassins to travel to the United States for the slaying.

Uribe-Munera later refused to participate after learning the plan included his own murder, Burns said.

Uribe-Munera fled Colombia after he was shot by cartel assassins in Medellin and left for dead, Burns said. He became a federally protected witness, also expected to testify in the Seal trial, she said.

Burns said that in early February 1986, Velez and Vasquez traveled from Miami to a meeting in New Orleans with Jose Renteria-Campo — another defendant in the case who was granted a separate trial.

Quintero-Cruz traveled from Colombia through Central America before entering the United States illegally and meeting the three men in

245B-7-1166

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FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) A-1, A-7

"MORNING ADVOCATE"

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 4/28/87

Edition Morning

Title MIGUEL VELEZ, aka;  
ET AL; ADLER B. SEAL-  
VICTIM

Character OCDE TASK FORCE INV.  
or

Classification 245B-7

Submitting Office New Orleans

New Orleans, she said

After securing a safe house, several getaway cars and equipment, the four men allegedly carried out the final stages of the conspiracy ending in Seal's murder, she said

"Because of Barry Seal's murder in July 1986, the country of Spain decided not to send Jorge Ochoa back to the United States," Burns said "You learn that, to a degree, the efforts of the cartel put a halt to the system"

Ochoa-Vasquez was extradited to his native Colombia, where he has since disappeared after being released on bond, she said

After arguments from Burns, defense attorney Richard Sharpstein, who represents Velez, asked District Judge Charley Quenalty to declare a mistrial based on remarks from Burns that he said would "inflame and prejudice" the jury. He also asked for a mistrial because of evidence referred to by Burns that he said was not provided to defense attorneys

Quenalty denied both motions

In his opening statement, Sharpstein cautioned jurors that they were not charged with "vindicating the criminal justice system" but to decide on evidence against suspects in Seal's murder

Sharpstein said Seal dealt with several federal agencies, including the CIA and helped White House officials obtain evidence that the Sandinista government in Nicaragua was involved in drug trafficking during one sting operation

By dealing with several government agencies, as well as in illegal smuggling activities, Seal may have caused his own death by "flying in the face of the very system that was trying to help him," Sharpstein said

"He put himself in that position, and he loved it," Sharpstein said "He thrived on it. He loved the danger"

"The evidence will show you no one will ever know whether Barry Seal was dealing in drugs right up to the moment he was gunned down," he said

Attorney Robert Moore, who represents Suintero-Cruz, said his client's only crime was entering the United States illegally in early 1986.

Moore said Quintero-Cruz was charged initially with being an illegal alien and that the conspiracy and first-degree murder indictments against him are based on "some questionable identification and innocent circumstances"

Moore said both witnesses who picked the Colombian national out of police lineups had made previous false identifications of other men

Moore said Quintero-Cruz traveled across the Mexican border into the United States with two other Colombian nationals who were arrested with Quintero-Cruz in a suburb of New Orleans shortly after Seal's murder.

All three men faced immigration charges, he said

"You will find out those two gentlemen have been deported and are back home because nobody picked them out of a lineup," he said "Nobody will tell you they positively and absolutely identified my client as the man who did the shooting"

Evidence that fingerprints matching Quintero-Cruz were lifted from the interior of a getaway car connected with Seal's murder shows only that Quintero-Cruz was in the car at some time, Moore said

Moore said law enforcement officials found no prints matching Quintero-Cruz on the murder weapon — a 45-caliber Mac 10 machine gun

"It's simply a matter of arresting a Colombian," Moore said. "We submit to you that evidence will show that's why

he was picked up, because he looks like one of them"

In other trial action, Quenalty denied a defense motion that the trial be delayed for 48 hours so that attorneys could research information received Saturday on the plea agreements between state and federal prosecutors and several unindicted co-conspirators expected to testify in the trial

In a detailed motion, attorneys said information supplied by state prosecutors on the witnesses was insufficient

Monday's opening arguments followed three weeks of jury selection

Attorney Wayne Walker, who represents Vasquez, gave a short opening statement in which he said that Vasquez was born in Colombia but entered the United States in full compliance with immigration laws

"Unlike Barry Seal, he brought no dishonor to this country or his family," Walker said

Vasquez was involved in "innocent acts" that have been interpreted as guilty actions by state prosecutors, he said

Quenalty dismissed proceedings at 4:30 p.m. Monday. He said testimony will begin at 10 a.m. Tuesday

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA

☒ Teletype☐ Facsimile☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## PRECEDENCE

☐ Immediate☐ Priority☒ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION

☐ TOP SECRET☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ UNCLAS E F T O☒ UNCLASDate 5/13/87

1 FM NEW ORLEANS (245B-7) (P)

2 TO DIRECTOR (245B-76) ROUTINE <sup>1255</sup><sub>755AM</sub> *JK* 0514873 CHICAGO ROUTINE <sup>10.18</sup><sub>FAX</sub> *BcB*4 JACKSON ROUTINE <sup>10.20</sup><sub>FAX</sub> *BcB*5 MIAMI ROUTINE <sup>10.22</sup><sub>FAX</sub> *BcB*6 NEW YORK ROUTINE <sup>10.28</sup><sub>FAX</sub> *BcB*7 SAN JUAN ROUTINE <sup>10.34</sup><sub>FAX</sub> *BcB*

8 BT

9 UNCLAS

10 COINROLL; AKA ET AL; ALDER B. SEAL - VICTIM (DECEASED); OCDETFI;  
11 OOJ - MURDER. OO: NEW ORLEANS.

12 RE NEW ORLEANS TELETYPE TO FBIHQ, JANUARY 15, 1987.

13 FOR THE INFORMATION OF FBIHQ AND ALL RECIPIENTS, SUBJECTS

14 MIGUEL VELEZ, 

WERE b7C

15 FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE RELATING TO THE

16 ASSASSINATION OF ALDER B. SEAL IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA ON

17 FEBRUARY 19, 1986. THE VERDICT WAS REACHED FOLLOWING APPROXIMATELY

18 ① - New Orleans

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19 (1) *JS*20 Approved *[Signature]*

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## TRANSMIT VIA

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## PRECEDENCE

- ☐ Immediate  
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## CLASSIFICATION.

- ☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
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☐ UNCLAS

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1 PAGE TWO 145B-76 UNCLAS

2 SEVEN HOURS OF DELIBERATION AND THE JURY IS CURRENTLY HEARING  
3 EVIDENCE IN ORDER TO MAKE A DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER TO  
4 IMPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY OR LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR EACH DEFENDANT,  
5 THE ONLY PENALTIES ALLOWABLE UNDER LOUISIANA STATE LAW.

6 THE ABOVE IS FOR THE INFORMATION OF THOSE AGENTS WHO PROVIDED  
7 TESTIMONY IN THIS MATTER.

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SUBJECT: 133/0013 ROUTINE

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TO DIRECTOR (245B-76) ROUTINE

CHICAGO ROUTINE

JACKSON ROUTINE

MIAMI ROUTINE

NEW YORK ROUTINE

SAN JUAN ROUTINE

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UNCLAS

COINROLL; AKA ET AL; ALDER B. SEAL - VICTIM (DECEASED). OCDETFI;

OOJ - MURDER. OO: NEW ORLEANS.

RE NEW ORLEANS TELETYPE TO FBIHQ. JANUARY 15, 1987.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF FBIHQ AND ALL RECIPIENTS. SUBJECTS

MIGUEL VELEZ, [REDACTED] WERE

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FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE RELATING TO THE

ASSASSINATION OF ALDER B. SEAL IN BATON ROUGE. LOUISIANA ON

FEBRUARY 19, 1986. THE VERDICT WAS REACHED FOLLOWING APPROXIMATELY

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2



PAGE TWO 245E-76 UNCLAS

SEVEN HOURS OF DELIBERATION AND THE JURY IS CURRENTLY HEARING EVIDENCE IN ORDER TO MAKE A DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER TO IMPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY OR LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR EACH DEFENDANT, THE ONLY PENALTIES ALLOWABLE UNDER LOUISIANA STATE LAW.

THE ABOVE IS FOR THE INFORMATION OF THOSE AGENTS WHO PROVIDED TESTIMONY IN THIS MATTER.

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COINROLL; aka,  
ET AL;  
ADLER B. SEAL - VICTIM  
OCDETFI  
OOJ-MURDER b7C  
OO: NEW ORLEANS

Bureau File Number

Field Office File Number

Squad or RA Number

Agent's Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_

☒ X if a joint operation with

DEA

(identity of other agency)

☐ X if case involves  
corruption of a public  
official (Federal, State or  
Local)

Date 5/26/87

## Investigative Assistance or Technique Used

Were any of the investigative assistance or techniques listed below used in connection with accomplishment being claimed? ☒ No ☐ Yes If Yes rate each used as follows

1 = Used but did not help      3 = Helped substantially  
2 = Helped but only minimally    4 = Absolutely essential

1	Acctg Tech Assistance	Rating	8	Eng Sect Tape Exams	Rating	15	Photographic Coverage	Rating	22	Telephone Toll Recs	Rating
2	Aircraft Assistance		9	Hypnosis Assistance		16	Polygraph Assistance		23	UCO Group I	
3	Computer Assistance		10	Ident Div Assistance		17	Search Warrants Executed		24	UCO Group II	
4	Consensual Monitoring		11	Informant Information		18	Show Money Usage		25	UC Other	
5	ELSUR FISC		12	Lab Div Exams		19	Surveil Sqd (SOG) Asst		26	NCAVC/ VI CAP	
6	ELSUR Title III		13	Lab Div Field Support		20	SWAT Team Action		27	Visual Invest Analysis (VIA)	
7	Eng Sect Field Support		14	Pen Registers		21	Tech Agt or Tech Equip				

A. Preliminary Judicial Process (Number of subjects)		-Complaints		Informations		Indictments		D Recoveries, Restitutions, or Potential Economic Loss Prevented (PELP)				(Explain valuation in remarks)																			
B Arrests, Locates, Summonses or Subpoenas Served (No of Subj)								Property Type Code		Recoveries		Restitutions		PELP Type Code*		Potential Economic Loss Prevented															
<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="3">Subject Priority*</th> <th rowspan="5">Subpoenas Served _____</th> </tr> <tr> <th>A</th> <th>B</th> <th>C</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>								Subject Priority*			Subpoenas Served _____	A	B	C										\$		\$		\$		\$	
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F Final Judicial Process. Judicial District _____								Conviction or Pretrial Div. Date		Sentence Date		No of Subjects _____		Acquitted _____ Dismissed _____																	
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Attach additional forms if reporting final judicial process on more than four subjects and submit a final disposition for (R-84) for each subject

Remarks (For every subject reported in Sections A, B or E above, provide name, DOB, race, sex, and DOB and SSAN if available)

### Subjects

white male, DOB

white male, DOB

and MIGUEL VELEZ, white male, DOB 6/7/49, 5/13/87, following jury trial each for sentenced on 5/21/87, to life imprisonment

Subjects tried in state court for capital offense following assassination of ADLER B. SEAL on 2/19/86. Evidence developed solely through FBI investigation.

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# Life terms meted in Seal death

By JOHN SEMIEN  
Advocate staff writer

LAKE CHARLES — Jurors here deliberated only 20 minutes Thursday before deciding to spare the lives of three Colombians they convicted of the 1986 murder of Adler "Barry" Seal.

They voted to sentence Miguel Velez, Bernardo Antonio Vasquez and Luis Carlos Quintero-Cruz to life in prison without benefit of pardon, probation or parole, despite a final plea from the prosecution for the death penalty.

The verdict was delivered to District Judge Charley Quienalty at 4 50 p m. The panel of 10 women and two men began their deliberations at 4 30 p m, after hearing closing arguments from attorneys.

The jury's decision caused Velez to double over with emotion as he, Vasquez and Quintero-Cruz faced the jury to receive their verdict.

Several jurors wept as Quienalty ordered the panel back into chambers for a final word of congratulations.

After the verdict, attorney Wayne Walker, who represents Vasquez, flashed a tired smile.

"It's a small consolation, but I'm pleased with it," Walker said. "It sure beats the alternative."

The three men, who have been on trial

here since April 6, faced possible death in Louisiana's electric chair after being convicted Wednesday of first-degree murder.

Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns, who argued for the death penalty, said she had mixed feelings about the verdict Wednesday afternoon.

"I respect their decision," she said. "I would have liked to have had it, but I basically feel it was because of the victim."

Both Burns and defense attorneys agreed Seal's criminal past as a cocaine smuggler played a part in the jury's swing toward mercy for his convicted assassins.

In court records, Seal admitted making millions to fly massive loads of cocaine into the United States from clandestine airstrips in Central and South America before being indicted on drug charges.

He subsequently became a DEA informant in 1984 in an attempt to stay out of prison at the expense of his former employers.

State prosecutors said Seal was "marked for death" later that year when Colombian drug czars placed a \$500,000 contract on his life for testifying against them in Florida drug

**SEE TRIAL, 13A**

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) A-1, A-13

"MORNING ADVOCATE"

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 5/15/87

Edition Morning

Title MIGUEL VELEZ, aka  
EL AL; ADLER B. SEAL -  
VICTIM

Character OCDE TASK FORCE INV.  
or

Classification 245B-7

Submitting Office New Orleans

245B-7-1172

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MAY 16 1987  
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# Trial

CONTINUED FROM 1A

cases

In her closing statement Wednesday, Burns urged jurors to consider the message drug traffickers of Colombia's Medellin cocaine cartel were sending with Seal's murder.

"This was used to teach a lesson, gangland style," she said brandishing a machine gun used in the murder. "Back in the 1920's, people would machine-gun informants to death in the streets. They knew it would be a deterrent to people who might turn against this cartel in the future."

"With a machine gun, they were the jury, the judge and the executioner and they did it for a few thousand dollars," Burns said about the defendants. "Cold, hard cash."

State prosecutors had asked the jury to consider the contract on Seal's life as one of the aggravating factors warranting the death penalty for Vasquez, Velez and Quintero-Cruz.

Defense attorneys argued Wednesday that life in prison was a more lasting deterrent.

"Each day, his life is a deterrent, he becomes painfully aware of why he is being punished," Walker said about inmates serving life sentences.

"When there is an execution at the prison, it's a deterrent, but it doesn't last very long," Walker said. "How many of you remember the name of the last person to die in the electric chair?"

Walker reminded the jury that Vasquez had no criminal history and said his character "is beyond reproach as compared to the character of the victim in this case."

Attorney Robert Moore, who represents Quintero-Cruz, reminded the jurors that they were allowed unlimited mercy under the law and were not bound to return the death penalty under any circumstances.

He invited the jury to take a photograph of Quintero-Cruz's wife and three children living in Colombia into their deliberations.

"It's the only thing he has in this world now that makes life worth living," Moore said about the alleged trigger man.

"It's important for that baby boy to grow up knowing he has a father," Moore said, pointing to the photo. "It's important for that little girl to know her father is alive, somewhere."

Seal, Moore said, was no "innocent victim" as a child or elderly person who becomes the victim of first-degree murder.

Attorney Richard Sharpstein, who represents Velez, urged the jury to "forgive him his trespasses" as the alleged driver of a getaway car in Seal's murder.

"Lock him up, throw away the key, but don't kill him," Sharpstein said. "This is not a case that cries out for the violent vengeance of death in the electric chair."

Thursday's final session was delayed by private conferences between attorneys and Quienalty over a defense motion that the judge sealed from public access.

Quienalty also refused requests from reporters covering the trial concerning the minutes of bench conferences on the motion held in open court.

Attorney Anthony Marabella, who represents Quintero-Cruz, said Quienalty barred attorneys from discussing the motion publicly over their objections.

"A motion will be filed in the next couple of days that will explain what has been sealed," he said.

On the outer steps of the Lake Charles federal building housing the trial, Sharpstein said all three defendants plan to appeal their first-degree murder convictions.

"We still feel we have a very strong case on the guilt phase," he said. "Our clients are relieved that they won't be sitting on death row while we're appealing."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state) A-1, A-13  
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Edition

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ET AL: ADLER B. SEAL-  
VICTIM

Character OCDE TASK FORCE INV.  
or

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Submitting Office New Orleans

Quienalty said Velez, Vasquez and Quintero-Cruz will be sentenced at 1:30 p.m. May 21 in state District Court here.

Seal died in a hail of machine-gun fire as he exited his Cadillac in the parking lot of the Salvation Army Community Treatment Center in Baton Rouge on the evening of Feb. 19, 1986.

He had been serving a six-month probation sentence at a federal halfway house there on drug charges.

A January trial on Seal's murder was ordered transferred from Baton Rouge to Calcasieu Parish by District Judge Frank Saia, who found it impossible to seat an impartial jury in Baton Rouge.

The trial here was first assigned to the Sulphur Judicial Center — a converted Catholic Church.

It was reassigned to a courtroom in the federal building here for security reasons.

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PAGE B-14

"TIMES-PICAYUNE/STATES-ITEM"

NEW ORLEANS, LA

Date 12/19/86

Edition MORNING

Title  AKA;  
ADLER BERRIMAN SEALCharacter OCDE TASK FORCE-INTERNA-  
or TIONAL TRAFFICKING

Classification NO 245D-7

Submitting Office NEW ORLEANS

## List of jurors kept secret in drug informant slay case

By The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE — An appeals court has upheld the decision to keep secret the list of potential jurors for the trial of four men charged with murdering drug informant Barry Seal.

The 1st Circuit Court of Appeal said withholding the information would not hamper jury selection for the trial next month.

The defendants face charges of conspiracy and first-degree murder in Seal's death, which state prosecutors called a contract killing ordered by powerful Colombian cocaine traffickers.

District Judge Frank Sain agreed to keep potential jurors' names and addresses secret after Assistant District Attorney Prem

Burns cited alleged links between Seal's death and the Medellin cartel, a powerful Colombian trafficking ring.

Burns also noted that pre-trial hearings have had bullet-proof shields and armed guards, which he said had a "chilling effect."

Michele Fournet, lawyer for Jose Renteria-Campo, appealed the decision, calling the extra security unnecessary and potentially intimidating to jurors.

Fournet said allegations of links between Seal's murder and a drug-trafficking cartel are totally unsubstantiated.

Her appeal was joined by attorneys for the other defendants, Miguel Velez, Bernardo Antonio Vasquez and Luis Carlos Quinto-Cruz.

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